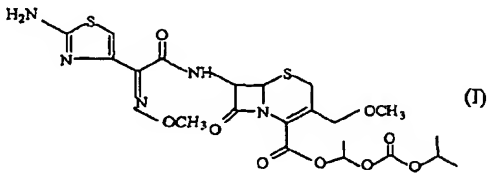
Claims:

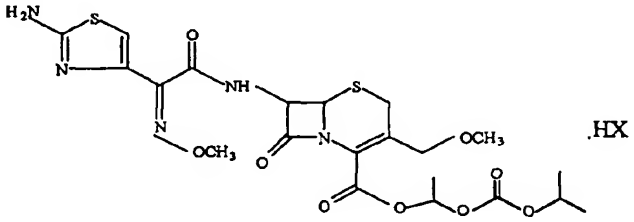
1. A process for the preparation of cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I), of high purity conforming to pharmacopoeial specifications,



(I)

which comprises

c) adding hydrogen halide to a solution of impure cefpodoxime proxetil in an organic solvent and isolating the hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime proxetil thus formed, and



.HX

Cefpodoxime hydrohalide salt

d) dissolving the cefpodoxime proxetil hydrohalide salt obtained in the above step in a water-miscible or water-immiscible organic solvent and neutralizing the salt thus formed with a base followed by isolation of cefpodoxime proxetil in pure form.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein said water miscible organic solvent is selected from an alcohol, tetrahydrofuran and acetonitrile.
3. A process according to claim 2, wherein said alcohol is selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, tertiary butanol.
4. A process according to claim 1 wherein said water immiscible solvent is selected from a ketonic solvent, ethyl acetate, methyl isobutyl ketone, chloroform, dichloromethane and 1,2-dichloroethane.
5. A process according to claim 4 wherein said ketonic solvent is selected from acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and methyl isobutyl ketone.
6. A process according to claim 5, wherein said ketonic solvent is employed in a voume of from 2.0 to 7.0 times the weight of the impure cefpodoxime proxetil.

7. A process according to any preceding claim , wherein said hydrohalide is selected from hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid and hydroiodic acid.
8. A process according to claim 7 , wherein the molar ratio of the hydrogen halide used is 1.0 to 1.5 times of cefpodoxime proxetil.
9. A process according to of claim 1, wherein the hydrohalide salt is isolated by filtration.
10. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein said base is an inorganic base.
11. A process according to claim 10, wherein said inorganic base is selected from sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate and potassium bicarbonate.
12. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the pure cefpodoxime proxetil is isolated by filtration.
13. A process according any preceding claim, wherein said pure cefpodoxime proxetil has a diastereomeric ratio between 0.50 and 0.60.
14. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said treatment of hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime with said base is carried out in 15 to 45 minutes, preferably, 30 minutes.
15. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 14 wherein said treatment with said base is carried out at a temperature of 15 to 40°C., preferably, 25 to 30°C.
16. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein after said treatment with said base, said reaction mixture is agitated for 60 minutes.